

## SOURCES

level.—*Rob Snyder, Reference and Instruction Librarian, Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, Ohio*

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***Encyclopedia of American Immigration.*** Ed. by Carl L. Bankston III. Pasadena, Calif.: Salem, 2010. 3 vols. alkaline \$395 (ISBN 978-1-58765-599-9). Online access included with purchase of print.

This collection is aimed at high school and undergraduate students seeking context on issues relating to immigration, both historical and contemporary. The stated goal in the Introduction is “to answer all the questions about immigration in American history that students are likely to ask” (ix). Each essay begins with a brief definition, a date, when appropriate, and a statement of significance before the topic is discussed in greater detail. This format is helpful for students who want to quickly determine the “what, when, and why” before deciding whether to read further.

The 525 entries are concise (ranging from 300 to 3000 words), easily comprehensible, and largely jargon-free. About one-third provide overviews of broad subjects such as Art, Labor, or Television. These topical essays highlight immigrants’ experiences and contributions within these fields. There is also treatment of specific national groups (Cambodians, Italians, Haitians, etc.), histories of U.S. States, and discussions of significant laws, treaties, and court cases. In choice of content the volumes under review are hardly groundbreaking, many of the same topics appear in the publication *Immigration in U.S. History* (Salem Press, 2006) also edited by Dr. Bankston. The present work is both more up-to-date, and, on the whole, better written. The writing style reflects the goal of anticipating and answering questions. The authors have done an admirable job distilling complex topics so as to make them readily understandable. Every essay concludes with a selective bibliography for students who wish to explore the topic further. Useful appendixes include an annotated list of U.S. Supreme Court rulings, a chronology of federal laws on immigration (up to 2009), and descriptions of federal government agencies concerned with immigration.

Salem Press is offering purchasers of the print set free access to the online version through 12/31/2011. Libraries that purchase the print and wish to use the online can do so via IP authentication, a referring URL, or username/password access. Access outside the library can be granted with a Remote Access password. After 2011, there is a \$100 annual hosting fee which is waived for libraries that purchase a new title in the Salem History collection. Additional details about Salem Online at: [http://salempress.com/Store/pages/salem\\_online.htm](http://salempress.com/Store/pages/salem_online.htm)

The online version includes all the content of the print, with the obvious advantage of full-text searching. The topical categories from the print index are reproduced allowing users to scan for essays grouped under broad headings (Court Cases, Health, Economics, or Politics, for example). The helpful appendixes and indexes are included and the cross-references are conveniently hyperlinked.

While no single work can possibly answer all questions

about immigration, the editors have succeeded in compiling a collection that meets student needs. The inclusion of online access increases the appeal to students who may be reluctant to consult print reference works.—*Eric Novotny, Humanities Librarian, The Pennsylvania State University, University Park*

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***Encyclopedia of Asian American Folklore and Folklife.*** Ed. by Jonathan H. X. Lee and Kathleen Nadeau. Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-CLIO, 2011. 3 vols. acid free \$265 (ISBN 978-0-313-35066-5). E-book available (978-0-313-35067-2), call for pricing.

The *Encyclopedia of Asian American Folklore and Folklife* is a three-volume set that covers twenty-three Asian American cultural groups. Lee and Nadeau explain in the preface that they wanted “to be as exhaustive as possible in terms of covering all the different Asian American cultural communities, especially those traditionally underrepresented in the literature, such as new immigrant communities, adoptees, and interracial and mixed heritage Asian Americans” (xxix). Some of these underrepresented groups include the Afghan Americans, Nepali Americans, Okinawan Americans, Pakistani Americans, and Tibetan Americans. Readers will find the lengthiest entries involving more recognized cultures like the Chinese Americans, Filipino Americans, Japanese Americans, and Vietnamese Americans.

The encyclopedia is arranged alphabetically by Asian American group, and each culture is introduced with an extensive historical essay followed by shorter essays on a variety of topics like “Clothes and Jewelry,” “Dying and Death Rituals,” Folk Music,” “Heroes and Heroines,” “Literature and Folklore,” “Religion,” and “Superstition and Taboo.” The editors state, “Asian American folklore and folklife consists of more than Asian mythologies narrated in Asian American families and communities . . . Asian American folklore and folklife is an *Asian American way of life*” (xxxvi).

There are more than 600 entries that have all been signed and written by 179 international contributors and the institutional affiliations of these experts can be found in volume 3. Each volume contains a comprehensive index, and many of the essays conclude with a further reading list and “See also” cross-references that direct the reader to related topics. Volume 3 also includes a five-page bibliography listing many essential Asian American folklore and folklife texts along with an appendix that contains a selection of eleven folktales from some of the Asian American cultural groups like the Filipino Americans and their legend of the pineapple. Black-and-white illustrations and photographs accompany several entries.

Overall, the *Encyclopedia of Asian American Folklore and Folklife* is geared toward a general audience and is very user-friendly. The introduction is most informative because the editors define folklore and folklife and clarify how these definitions and studies have developed through time. This is very helpful for someone who is unfamiliar with the discourse on this topic. Following this introduction is an eighty-nine-page section on “Pan Asian Americans,” which contains scholarly